

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A pharmaceutical composition for use in treatment or prophylaxis of ischemic heart disease, the pharmaceutical composition containing a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cGMP production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, for suppressing ischemia-reperfusion injury in the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the ischemic heart disease is myocardial infarction.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the substance as the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide or its salt.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4, wherein the natriuretic peptide is atrial natriuretic peptide.

6. A method of treatment or prophylaxis of ischemic heart disease, comprising administering to a patient in need of such a treatment or prophylaxis a substance, as an active ingredient, which can increase intracellular cGMP production by acting on a natriuretic peptide receptor, and which has an effect of reducing an infarct region.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein ischemia-reperfusion injury is suppressed in the treatment of ischemic heart disease.

8. The method of claim 6 or 7, wherein the ischemic heart disease is myocardial infarction.

9. The method of any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the substance as the active ingredient is a natriuretic peptide or its salt.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the natriuretic peptide is atrial natriuretic peptide.

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